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TAGS: [OTIP](#) [ZI](#) [KPAO](#)

SUBJECT: PUBLIC DIPLOMACY AND THE EVOLUTION OF ZIMBABWEAN DEMOCRACY

11. SUMMARY: THE WIN OF 57 PARLIAMENTARY SEATS BY THE MOVEMENT FOR DEMOCRATIC CHANGE (MDC) IN THE JUNE, 2000 ELECTIONS MARKS AN IMPORTANT NEW STAGE IN THE EVOLUTION OF ZIMBABWEAN DEMOCRACY. AFTER 20 YEARS AS A ONE-PARTY STATE, THE RULING ZIMBABWE AFRICAN NATIONAL UNION - PATRIOTIC FRONT (ZANU-PF) PARTY WILL NOW NEED TO COMPETE WITH A MEANINGFUL OPPOSITION IN THE PARLIAMENT. WHILE ZANU-PF STILL CONTROLS A PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY, AND WILL PROBABLY BE ABLE TO PASS THE LEGISLATION IT DESIRES (WITH THE EXCEPTION OF CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS -- THOSE REQUIRE A TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY) IT

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MUST NOW COMPETE IN THE MARKETPLACE OF IDEAS AND IDEOLOGIES WITH A NEW GENERATION OF POLITICAL THOUGHT. THE BIRTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF A VIABLE OPPOSITION IN ZIMBABWE WAS A COMPLEX AND LENGTHY PROCESS, AND OWES ITS SUCCESS TO THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE. IT IS POSSIBLE, HOWEVER, TO RELATE U.S. GOVERNMENT PUBLIC DIPLOMACY PROGRAMS TO THE GROWTH OF A POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT AMENABLE TO DEMOCRATIC PLURALISM IN ZIMBABWE. THIS REPORT ATTEMPTS TO OUTLINE HOW USG PUBLIC DIPLOMACY PROGRAMS IN ZIMBABWE HELPED TO CREATE SOME OF THE CONDITIONS THAT LED TO BROADER PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN THE NATION'S POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT. END SUMMARY.

ZIMBABWE HAVE THE RIGHT TO THAT CLAIM. WE CAN, HOWEVER, TAKE CREDIT FOR HAVING PROVIDED THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE WITH IDEAS, EXAMPLES AND SKILLS WHICH STRENGTHENED THEIR OWN EXPRESSIONS OF SELF-DETERMINATION. OUR PROGRAMS HAVE BEEN NON-PARTISAN, PROVIDING INFORMATION AND AMERICAN EXPERIENCES TO MEMBERS OF THE RULING PARTY AS WELL AS TO PEOPLE WHO HAVE BECOME LEADERS IN THE OPPOSITION AND IN CIVIL SOCIETY. THE NON-PARTISAN NATURE OF OUR PROGRAMS UNDERSCORES THE NOTION THAT ONLY THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE CAN CLAIM CREDIT FOR POLITICAL PROGRESS IN THEIR COUNTRY. IT ALSO SUPPORTS THE NOTION THAT IDEAS AND INFORMATION, OUR BASIC COMMODITIES, BREED POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT.

13. IN THE 20 YEARS SINCE ZIMBABWE'S INDEPENDENCE, A BROAD ARRAY OF PUBLIC DIPLOMACY PROGRAMS HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF DEMOCRACY. THE FOLLOWING IS A

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PARTIAL LISTING OF PROGRAMS THAT HAVE BEEN ESPECIALLY PRODUCTIVE. WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT AF/PD ALSO ASK FORMER USIS OFFICERS WHO HAVE WORKED IN ZIMBABWE FOR ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE HISTORY OF PUBLIC DIPLOMACY PROGRAMS HERE.

14. THE MAY 2000 EMINENT PERSONS IN CONSULTATION (EPIC) PROGRAM -- THIS PROGRAM LED DIRECTLY TO THE PRODUCTION OF CRITICAL VOTER EDUCATION MATERIAL IMMEDIATELY BEFORE ZIMBABWE'S PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS. THIS AMBASSADORIAL INITIATIVE WAS FUNDED BY USAID/ZIMBABWE AND MANAGED BY THE EMBASSY'S PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECTION. DURING ONE OF THE PROGRAM'S WORKSHOPS, A FLIER TO EDUCATE ZIMBABWE'S VOTERS ABOUT THE SECRECY OF THE BALLOT WAS CONCEIVED AND DESIGNED. WITHIN TWO WEEKS, THE LEGAL RESOURCES FOUNDATION, A LEADING ZIMBABWEAN NGO, HAD PRODUCED ONE MILLION COPIES OF THE FLIER. IT WAS USED AS AN INSERT IN ALL OF THE NATION'S NEWSPAPERS AND GIVEN AWAY AT SHOPS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. SECRECY OF THE BALLOT

WAS A MAJOR CONCERN FOR MANY VOTERS IN ZIMBABWE AND THE TIMELY PRODUCTION OF THE FLYER WAS AN IMPORTANT MEANS OF HELPING TO PROMOTE THE FREEST, FAIREST POSSIBLE ELECTIONS.

15. CIVITAS PROGRAMS BETWEEN 1997 AND 1999 -- THE MOST CONCRETE RESULT OF ZIMBABWEAN INVOLVEMENT IN THE CIVITAS INITIATIVE WAS THE DEVELOPMENT AND INCLUSION OF CIVIC EDUCATION MATERIALS IN SECONDARY SCHOOL CURRICULA. MR. CONRAD KUONA, ONE OF THE ZIMBABWEAN PARTICIPANTS IN THE MAY 1997 CIVITAS CONFERENCE IN PRETORIA, WAS NAMED TO THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION'S UNCLASSIFIED

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COMMISSION ON EDUCATION. USING THIS POSITION, MATERIALS AND WISDOM GAINED THROUGH THE CIVITAS PROGRAM, AND CONTINUED POST SUPPORT (INCLUDING AN ACADEMIC SPECIALIST), MR. KUONA INTEGRATED CIVIC EDUCATION MATERIAL INTO THE NATIONAL CURRICULUM. AS A DIRECT RESULT OF THE CIVITAS PROGRAM, SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS THROUGHOUT ZIMBABWE NOW RECEIVE INSTRUCTION ON CITIZENS' BASIC CIVIC RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES.

16. THE CIVITAS PROGRAM, IN CONJUNCTION WITH AN USIS-ADMINISTERED GRANT FROM USAID, RESULTED IN THE 1998 CREATION OF A NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM IN ZIMBABWE. THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY THE PUBLICATION IN 1999 OF A BOOK ON WHY AND HOW TO ORGANIZE NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAMS.

17. IMPOSSIBLE TO PROVE, BUT AVOWED BY ONE ZIMBABWEAN PARTICIPANT IN THE MAY 1997 PRETORIA CIVITAS CONFERENCE, IS THE PROPOSITION THAT ZIMBABWE'S CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM BEGAN THERE. VICTOR JUMO, THEN WITH THE ZIMBABWEAN NGO "THE LEGAL RESOURCES FOUNDATION," TELLS

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US THAT ZIMBABWEAN PARTICIPANTS IN CIVITAS '97 WERE INSPIRED AT THE CONFERENCE BY THEIR SOUTH AFRICAN COUNTERPARTS' WORK ON CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM. UPON RETURNING TO ZIMBABWE, THE ZIMBABWEAN CIVITASIANS CONVOKED A MEETING OF OTHER NGOS. THAT MEETING LED TO THE CREATION OF THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTIONAL ASSEMBLY (NCA). THE NCA'S WORK TO PROMOTE CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM GALVANIZED PUBLIC OPINION, LED TO THE GOVERNMENT'S CREATION OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION, AND RESULTED IN A DRAFT CONSTITUTION IN LATE 1999. POPULAR REJECTION OF THAT DRAFT IN THE FEBRUARY 2000 REFERENDUM

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GENERATED A SENSE OF POLITICAL EMPOWERMENT AMONG ZIMBABWEAN VOTERS AND HELPED TO CREATE THE VOTER TURN-OUT AND COURAGE WHICH ELECTED AN UNPRECEDENTED OPPOSITION BLOCK TO PARLIAMENT IN JUNE 2000.

18. INTERNATIONAL VISITOR GRANTS HAVE PROVIDED FIRST-TIME EXPOSURE TO THE U.S. FOR A NUMBER OF ZIMBABWEANS WHO HAVE GONE ON TO POSITIONS OF NATIONAL PROMINENCE. THE LIST OF FORMER IV GRANTEES READS LIKE A WHO'S WHO OF INFLUENTIAL ZIMBABWEANS. ONE OF THE MOST NOTABLE IS MORGAN TSVANGIRAI, THE LEADER OF THE NEWLY FORMED OPPOSITION PARTY, THE MOVEMENT FOR DEMOCRATIC CHANGE (MDC). TSVANGIRAI PARTICIPATED IN A 1989 MULTI-REGIONAL IV PROGRAM. OF COURSE, NOT EVERY SINGLE IV ALUMNI HAS PROVEN TO BE A DISTINGUISHED DEFENDER OF DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND FREE MARKETS, BUT THE OVERALL LIST IS OVERWHELMINGLY POSITIVE. THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS OFFER A PARTIAL LISTING OF PROMINENT IV ALUMNI.

19. MEDIA: "DAILY NEWS" (INDEPENDENT, PRO-OPPOSITION)

EDITOR IN CHIEF GEOFF NYAROTA; "DAILY NEWS" NEWS EDITOR WILLIAM BANGO (1987); "DAILY NEWS" DEPUTY EDITOR BILL SAIDI (1993); "STANDARD" (INDEPENDENT, PRO-OPPOSITION) EDITOR IN CHIEF CLIVE WILSON; ZIANA (ZIMBABWE ASSOCIATED NEWS AGENCY) EDITOR IN CHIEF WILF MBANGA (1981); JOY TV DIRECTOR ISHMAEL KADUNGURE (1983); "HERALD" (GOVERNMENT-OWNED DAILY) EDITOR IN CHIEF BORNWELL CHAKAODZA (1998); "CHRONICLE" (GOVERNMENT-OWNED DAILY IN BULAWAYO) EDITOR IN CHIEF STEPHEN MPOFU (1990); "FINANCIAL GAZETTE" (INDEPENDENT, PRO-OPPOSITION WEEKLY) EDITOR IN CHIEF TREVOR NCUBE (1990); UNCLASSIFIED

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"STANDARD" (INDEPENDENT, PRO-OPPOSITION WEEKLY) EDITOR IN CHIEF MARK CHAVUNDUKA.

10. JUDICIARY: SUPREME COURT CHIEF JUSTICE ANTHONY GUBBAY (1990); HIGH COURT JUDGE GODFREY CHIDYausiku (1984); HIGH COURT JUDGE PADDINGTON GARWE (1987); HIGH COURT JUDGE FERGUS BLACKIE (1992); HIGH COURT JUDGE YUNUS OMERJEE (1995); HIGH COURT JUDGE WILSON SANDURA (1996).

11. GOVERNMENT: NEW ZANU-PF MINISTER OF FINANCE NKOSANA MOYO (EISENHOWER FELLOW IN 1995); NEW ZANU-PF MINISTER OF JUSTICE PATRICK CHINAMASA (1983); NEW ZANU-PF MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS JOHN NKOMO (1986); NEW ZANU-PF MINISTER OF YOUTH DEVELOPMENT, GENDER AND EMPLOYMENT CREATION BORDER GEZI (1992); NEW ZANU-PF GOVERNOR OF MIDLANDS PROVINCE CEPHAS MSIPA (1982); CLERK OF THE PARLIAMENT AUSTIN ZVOMA (1983); NEW MDC MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT MIKE AURET (1986); NEW MDC MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT DAVID COLTART (1988); NATIONAL COMMISSIONER OF POLICE AUGUSTINE CHIHURI (1995); NEW MDC MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT TENDAI BITI (1999).

12. ACADEMICS: DR. RUKUDZO MURAPA (VICE CHANCELLOR OF AFRICA UNIVERSITY); UNIVERSITY OF ZIMBABWE HEAD LIBRARIAN STANISLAUS MADE (1985).

13. BUSINESS: BARCLAY'S BANK MANAGING DIRECTOR ISAAC TAKAWIRA (1989); COMMERCIAL FARMERS' UNION DIRECTOR DAVID HASLUCK (1980); CEO OF ECONET CELLULAR PHONE SYSTEM STRIVE MASIYIWA (1992).
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14. CIVIL SOCIETY: ZIMBABWEAN COORDINATOR FOR THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN INSTITUTE DOREEN SIBANDA (1981); DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL GALLERY PROF. GEORGE KAHARI (1981); DIRECTOR OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS DOCUMENTATION AND RESEARCH TRUST OF SOUTHERN AFRICA PHILIP MATSHEZA (1996); NATIONAL COORDINATOR OF THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTIONAL ASSEMBLY ISAAC MAPHOSA (1999).

15. LOOKING AHEAD, WE BELIEVE THAT PUBLIC DIPLOMACY PROGRAMS IN THE NEXT TWO OR THREE YEARS CAN MAKE THE MOST SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS THROUGH SUPPORT FOR RULE OF LAW (FOCUS ON STRENGTHENING THE JUDICIARY), SUPPORT FOR CIVIL SOCIETY (FOCUS ON CIVIC AND HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION), AND SUPPORT FOR THE INDEPENDENT MEDIA (FOCUS ON LIBERALIZATION OF BROADCAST MEDIA).

16. WE WILL BE HAPPY TO WORK FURTHER WITH AF/PD AND OTHERS TO REFINE AND FLESH-OUT THE HISTORY OF PD PROGRAMS IN ZIMBABWE AND THEIR CUMULATIVE EFFECT ON THIS NATION'S

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